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American Anthropologist, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Jan., 1896), 14-21.

Stable URL:
http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28189601%291%3A9%3A1%3C14%3AACTE%3E2.0.CO%3B2-D

American Anthropologist is currently published by American Anthropological Association.

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J. WALTER FEWKES

In the year 1891, at my suggestion, the late J. G. Owens began a collection of data relating to Tusayan ethnobotany. It was my intention to prepare with him an elaborate memoir on the foods and food resources of the Hopi Indians, but the death of this talented young student prevented the completion of our work together. Since his death, however, my interest in the subject has not flagged, but I have found the accumulation of material* so vast that an extensive article would be necessary to present the subject in anything like a complete form. The portion dealing with maize and food products from it would alone fill a volume, and the various kinds of animal foods would take many pages to adequately discuss. The present article is offered as a contribution to the study of a few Tusayan plants, and is more or less preliminary in nature.

The specimens were identified for me by the late Dr Sereno Watson, of Harvard University, and have been deposited in the herbarium of that institution. I have had the aid of the late Mr A. M. Stephen in some of the etymological suggestions, but in many instances it has been quite impossible to arrive at any satisfactory analysis of the components of Hopi names of plants. It may seem strange to the reader that I have picked out a few of the plants used by the Hopi for alimentary, medicinal, and other purposes and omitted others equally important. It is not my intention to offer a monograph of the subject, nor would the limits of an *Anthropologist* article allow it. I simply wish to call attention to the interesting field of ethnobotany which the Hopi Indians furnish the ethnologist, leaving the more systematic and exhaustive discussion to a memoir which I have in preparation. The reason I have chosen the food plants instead of food animals will be patent when we call to mind that the Pueblos are and have been agriculturists, so far as our knowledge of them goes. They took to agricultural products rather than to flesh for their subsistence. I believe they have employed for food as large a

*Parts of this material were collected while at work for the Hemenway expedition and portions as special ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institution.

number of plants as any of the aborigines of America, and that they have more than once bridged over the failure of their staple crop, maize, by other plant foods not used by the whites for food. It is certainly important to know what these other food plants are, but the bearings of this on the food resources of the great American desert I must reserve to my final discussion.

Gutierrezia euthamiæ. (Hopi name, *Pamnavi:* from *pami*, assuredly; *mana*, maid; *übi*, axil—the true female plant.)—A sprig of this plant is attached to the paho, or prayer emblem. (See Journ. Am. Eth. and Arch., vol. IV, p. 27.)

Thelesperma gracile. (*Hohoisi:* from *hohovaktü*, sweet smells; *sihü*, flower.)—An infusion of the flowers is drank as a beverage. A stronger infusion is used in the liquid in which the Hopi boil yucca fiber, for basketry, until they acquire a reddish-brown color.

Biscutella wislizeni. (*Kütcibcü:* from *kütca*, white; *cibuci*, seed.)—The dried leaf is presumed to have healing properties. When used it is commonly rubbed to a powder and sprinkled on abrasions.

Stanleya sp. (*Kwibi.*)—In the spring its leaves are boiled and eaten.

Stanleya albescens. (*Ishü:* from *isauüh*, coyote; *cühü*, hay.)—Used as a food, like *kwibi.*

Sisymbrium canescens. (*Asa:* etymology obscure.)—It gives its name to a clan who now regard themselves as Hopi, but traditionally claim to be of Tanoan stock. Soon after people came up from the Underworld and were yet wandering in search of permanent dwellings some women daily plucked the flowers of this plant, fluttering their yellow blossoms in the faces of the infants cradled on their backs to still their cries. These infants became known as the "Children of the Asa," and their descendants have ever since been called the "Asa people." An infusion of the flowers of this plant is used to mix with a dark iron pigment, forming a black color for pottery decoration. The juice of the asa is presumed to cause the pigment to adhere. It is also used as a food, its leaves either boiled or roasted between hot, flat stones.

Portulaca retusa. (*Pihala:* from *piakü*, caterpillar.)—This plant is likewise called *piakü kaüadta*, caterpillar, his corn; it is boiled with meats.